



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

June 25, 2013

Dear Resident or Guardian:

Prior to July 1, 2012, you may have had a county social worker attend your annual Interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting at your residence. The county is no longer funding the Intermediate Care Facility for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID) service and may not be in attendance at your annual meeting. Your ICF/ID service is now funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS). In the Spirit of the 1999 Olmstead Supreme Court Decision, DHS continues to partner with ICF providers to ensure that all residents have a state contact and are offered choices of services. To meet this objective, starting in 2013, Money Follows the Person (MFP) Transition Specialists will attend your annual IDT meetings. The Transition Specialist can assist with discussing your community options and services and can be a resource for you and/or your family. The following website provides more information about the Olmstead decision. [http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead\\_about.htm](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm).

It is important for you to know that no one will be forced to move out of a facility. But it is also important for residents and their family members to know about their choices, such as living closer to each other, in homes and communities of your choice and with supports for personally rewarding work, school and recreation.

In 2007 Iowa received a \$51 million federal “Money Follows the Person” grant to assist residents of ICF/ID facilities to move into a community of their choice. Since 2007, Iowa has transitioned 232 people into smaller settings with more independence in communities of their choice. With each transition, Iowa has gained valuable knowledge on what supports are necessary to help people transition successfully. Iowa’s MFP grant is authorized through 2016 with the possibility of further extension. Here are some features of the MFP program:

- Every ICF/ID facility resident and family interested in transition has the chance to thoroughly discuss options with a transition specialist. The transition specialist will be responsible for watching over every step of that individual’s planning process, transition to the community, and eventual move into the ID Waiver.
- A team of people chosen by the resident is set up for everyone interested in transitioning. The team will focus on that person’s goals and choices—where he or she wants to live, with whom, and the jobs, recreation and participation in community life that would be most satisfying.
- A rich menu of additional supports is available under the grant to ensure a successful transition and life in the community, including household setup, medical equipment,

home and vehicle modification, and extra mental health services among other supports.

- Training of community provider staff in meeting the needs of each person getting ready to move, along with trial overnight stays in the community of choice, are supported by the grant
- A full time Behavioral Specialist is available and can work with each resident's planning team to develop and implement behavioral support plans and train on crisis intervention techniques. The Behavior Specialist is also available to consult with the community support team for the 365 days after the individual moves.
- A full time Employment Specialist is also available to work with community providers and the planning team on employment services and supports.
- The Department of Human Services is working with the Iowa Legislature to make several of these enhanced services permanently available under the ID Waiver, to provide the extra supports people need beyond their transition year.
- Individuals will transition smoothly over to the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program after the MFP program.

Your ICF/ID facility will give you the contact information of the Transition Specialist assigned to work with you. You may contact your Transition Specialist at any time to discuss your options. You may also call Brooke Lovelace at 515-256-4637 should you have additional questions. You may also go to the Money Follows the Person website at [www.ime.state.ia.us/LTC/MFP/index.html](http://www.ime.state.ia.us/LTC/MFP/index.html).

Sincerely,

Deborah Johnson  
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Iowa Medicaid Enterprise